- 1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- b) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 2. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
- b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; wherein all T nucleotides are replaced by U nucleotides;
- c) a nucleotide sequence complementary to (a) or (b); and
- d) a fragment of (a), (b), or (c) that is at least 25 nucleotides in length.
- 3. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:2;
- b) a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; and
- c) a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid having the cDNA sequence contained within ATCC Accession No. _____.
- 4. A substantially pure polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and

- b) a polypeptide comprising at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 5. The polypeptide of claim 4, wherein the polypeptide is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
- 6. A substantially pure polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:1;
- b) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the cDNA sequence contained within ATCC Accession No. _____.
- 7. The polypeptide of claim 6, wherein the polypeptide is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
- 8. A method for detecting the presence of a nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;
- b) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2;

in a sample, the method comprising the steps of:

- i) contacting the sample with a nucleic acid probe which selectively hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule; and
- ii) determining whether the nucleic acid probe binds to the nucleic acid molecule in the sample.

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- 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the sample comprises mRNA.
- 10. A method for producing a substantially pure polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- b) a polypeptide comprising at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2;

the method comprising the step of culturing a host cell containing the nucleic acid molecule encoding the polypeptide under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed.

- 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the host cell is a bacterium.
- 12. A method for detecting the presence of a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- b) a polypeptide comprising at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2;

in a biological sample, the method comprising the steps of:

- i) contacting the sample with a compound which selectively binds to the polypeptide; and
- ii) determining whether the compound binds to the polypeptide in the sample.
- 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the compound which binds to the polypeptide is an antibody.